

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for providing an external client access to a device that is protected by a firewall. The method includes providing a tunnel mechanism and then operating the tunnel mechanism to receive an access request to the device from the external client. The tunnel mechanism verifies the external client is currently authorized to access a host device. If authorized, the method continues with routing the access request to the device. The verifying step may include determining a level of authorization and then the routing step is performed based on the determined level of authorization. The routing step includes modifying the access request to include an address of an interface of the internal device. The method continues with receiving a response to the modified access request from the internal device and then modifying the response to remove any identification information for the internal device included in the response.

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